

CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, April 28, 2008
The Center of Clayton - Multipurpose Room A

The following members were present:

Alex Berger Jill Indovino
Mimi Deem Rich Yawitz
Dick Hyde

Excused/Absent

Lori Elliott
Judy Goodman
Omri Praiss

Also Present:

Patty DeForrest, Director of Parks and Recreation

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from the March 24 meeting were approved as read.

Director's Report

Ms. DeForrest will present the 6 month budget report at the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. The Center of Clayton 2009 budget will be completed soon. Staff is working on the City budget which will need to be completed by the end of May.

The two things we are preparing for 2009 budget are fees and charges. Last year we increased membership fees so this year we will not be increasing those fees. We are looking at increasing the rental rates for the Competition Pool and non-resident rates for sports teams. The rental rates for the Competition Pool are relatively low in comparison to other facilities similar to ours. The lap lane rates are also low. At the present time the rates are \$10 per lap lane so we are proposing to raise the rates to \$12.50 per lap lane. The swimming, water polo and dive teams are aware of the increase. The fees for lap lanes will increase on October 1, 2008.

The non-resident rates for the sports teams will likely raise \$10.00 per team because in 2007 the fees for residents increased. Program rates change when necessary. Program fees will change on August 17, 2008. Currently we have a lot of non-residents playing in our basketball leagues so we are evaluating whether or not having 120 basketball teams a year is too many. We are also evaluating the amount of swim lessons we offer to non-residents.

The other component of the Capital portion of the budget is the implementation of the Master Plan., which we will discuss later tonight.

The Earth Day event we hosted on April 26 went very well. Approximately, 250-300 people attended. We plan to keep this event simple and primarily for the community. We gave away 50 starter trees. We took photos of the coloring contest winners and REI had raffle drawings. Some of the other vendors at the event were Clayton Farmers Market, the Green Club and Green Buildings.

As we look ahead at the event season we are approaching one of our busiest times of the year. The Hanley House is opening on Saturday, May 3. The Landscape Committee will do some landscaping that day and there will be an herb sale from 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. The plan is to make the Hanley House a seasonal type of facility. We will always offer private tours by appointment only and during the season the hours of operation will be 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Parties in the Park will take place the second Wednesday of every month through September. Musical nights will take place on the 4th Sunday of the month throughout the summer. The Jazz Festival is on May 31 and then the Taste of Clayton is on June 1. The Taste of Clayton has filled all of their restaurant spaces and 19 of the restaurants are in Clayton.

The outdoor pool construction has been completed. A couple of shade areas have been added but not a whole lot of new shade is available. Additional shade structures may be added in the future. Also, in reference to the pool the Aquatic supervisors did some research on dive towers at pools throughout the United States because of safety concerns they have and their lifeguards also have about keeping the 7 and 10 meter dive towers open to the public. Ms. DeForrest provided the Commission with the chart the aquatic staff put together. The aquatic staff would like to curtail the usage of the dive towers. Most facilities similar to ours have stopped public use. After the Commission members and Ms. DeForrest discussed this matter it was determined to move forward with the recommendation to close the 7 and 10 meter to the general public and leave the 5 meter open at this time.

Master Plan Update

Ms. DeForrest's staff prioritized the Master Plan projects per their request. Ms. DeForrest stated that 4 of the projects are already in the works and 2 (including number 7 - Walking Trails) are in the budget to be completed next year. We are pretty certain we will receive the funding through grants to pay for most of the walking trail project. If we do not receive the funding we will continue to try. The project numbered 2 on the priority list is the Inclusion Playground. A great deal of preliminary work has been conducted about the potential of a playground like this and there have been many discussions about it as well. All ability levels would be able to play on this playground because it would be equipped with long ramps. It was noted that there is a playground of its kind which is very popular in Forest Park. Mr. Berger stated that we definitely need this type of playground in Clayton because currently we are not meeting the needs of everyone in the community. The playground would be by the north shelter in Shaw Park and the existing playground would come out. Unlimited Play, which is a playground structure company, recommended this area because it is easily assessable to parking and existing paths in Shaw Park. A large portion of the project could be funded through park grants and the Clayton Parks Foundation.

The number 3 project is the lighting of fields #1 and #2 near the Tennis Courts. Lighting the fields would allow us to have more field and practice times. This project could be partially funded through a Musco lighting grant. These are the only fields not equipped with lights.

The number 4 and number 5 projects are neighborhood park improvements. These are important projects but are not high priorities at this time because they are not as easy to fund; however, they are much easier for us to fit into our normal budget. We will definitely look at working on these projects over the next few years. The permanent corporate tent will likely only be completed in the future if we can get funding. This would make it more of a draw to businesses in Clayton.

The number 7 project is the amphitheater. This is the lowest on the staff's priority list. Ms. DeForrest mentioned that we definitely do not need to explore adding an amphitheater to Shaw Park because it would take away from green space and there is not a large demand for it at this time. It was mentioned that in an original design of Shaw Park an amphitheater was pictured near the South Shelter in Shaw Park. The Commission felt the list was a good reflection of where we should hold with the Master Plan. Ms. DeForrest will bring the recommendations back to them in the context of the Recreation and Stormwater budget.

Old Business / New Business

There is no old or new business to report.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise Ucinski

